

BOARD LETTER – SUMMARY SHEET

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER

AGENDA REVIEW	January 20, 2016
BOARD MEETING	February 23, 2016
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	All
DEPARTMENT	Mental Health
SUBJECT	Request approval to amend Title 5 Personnel Section 5.52 Tuition Reimbursement Program of the Los Angeles County Code Section 5.52.110 Maximum Reimbursable Training to include language exempting the limitations on reimbursement under specific conditions; and authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to exceed the established spending limit of an annual aggregate of \$100,000 on scholarship programs to implement the Financial Incentive Program for FYs 2015-16 through 2017-18.
PROGRAM	The DMH will implement the Financial Incentive Program, which will provide tuition reimbursement and loan assistance to the public mental health workforce, as well as authority to implement the Under Represented Ethnic Populations (UREP) Graduate Recruitment Program. The UREP Graduate Recruitment Program is a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funded effort to increase retention and advancement of qualified linguistically and culturally responsive individuals critical to meeting the public mental health needs with the goal of increasing access to mental health care in un-served/underserved communities.
DEADLINES	N/A
COST & FUNDING	The current budgeted appropriation allocated for the Department's Financial Incentive Program is \$8,156,604 for FYs 2015-16 to 2017-18, fully funded by State MHSA revenue for Workforce Education and Training.
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	Board approval of the recommended actions will amend the County Code to allow employees who have taken coursework in the field of mental health to exceed the maximum limitation of two courses for tuition reimbursement provided that they meet the written eligibility criteria established by the Director. Additionally, Board approval will allow DMH to exceed the annual limitation of \$100,000 for the financial incentive or scholarship programs.
SUMMARY/ ISSUES (Briefly summarize program and potential issues or concerns. Identify changes, if any, to level of funding or staffing; how funding will be utilized and why best use; prior accomplishments; and for BLs involving contracts, also note changes to the contract term.)	The current Los Angeles County Code Section 5.52.110 restricts tuition reimbursement for County Officers or employees to a maximum of two courses, which total no more than eight units of credit per semester or quarter. Board approval of the recommended actions will allow employees who have taken coursework in the field of mental health to exceed the maximum limitation of two courses for tuition reimbursement provided that they meet the written eligibility criteria established by the Director. Additionally, Board approval will allow DMH to exceed the annual limitation of \$100,000 for the financial incentive or scholarship programs.
DEPT. & COUNTY COUNSEL CONTACTS	Acting Chief Deputy Director – Dennis Murata, (213) 738-4978 dmurata@dmh.lacounty.gov Deputy County Counsel – Grace Chang, (213) 974-1903 gchang@counsel.lacounty.gov